

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 31-57 have been cancelled. Claims 18-30 have been amended herein Claims 58-65 are added herein. Claims 18-30 and 58-65 remain pending in the case.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Fahlen et al. (5,589,731). Claims 26 and 27 were cited as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has herein amended independent Claims 26 and 27 to include the subject matter of Claim 17. As a result, amended independent Claims 26 and 27 are now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 28-30 now depend from allowable independent Claims 26 and 27. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 28-30 are now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Fahlen et al reference. Claims 26 and 27 were cited as

being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has herein amended independent Claims 26 and 27 to include the subject matter of Claim 17. As a result, amended independent Claims 26 and 27 are now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 19 and 21 now depend from allowable independent Claim 26. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 19 and 21 are now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claim 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the Fahlen et al. reference in view of Haven et al. (6,288,483). Claims 26 and 27 were cited as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has herein amended independent Claim 26 to include the subject matter of Claim 17. As a result, amended independent Claim 26 is now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 22 and 23 now depend from allowable independent Claim 26. Hence,

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 22 and 23 are now allowable over the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of rejected Claims 17-25 and 28-30.

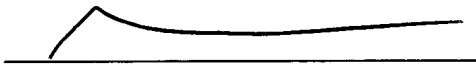
Based on the arguments and amendments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that newly amended independent Claims 26 and 27 are allowable, and that all remaining dependent claims (i.e., Claims 17-25, 28-30 and 58-65) depend from allowable base claims. As such, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of all remaining claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/23/09



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